COATS ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 1998 TO August 31, 1999
September 1, 1999 TO August 31, 2000

105-05144/

Introduction

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS) was established in 1985 by Ministerial Order and its mandate has since been reaffirmed. COATS provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of Learning on matters related to teaching, including: teacher certification, teacher education, practice review, teaching excellence and other matters of interest to the Minister. COATS also plays a role in addressing Practice Review of Teachers Regulation complaints and in the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

As COATS members represent various provincial education organizations, COATS conducts its activities in ways that are designed to foster, encourage and enhance partnerships within the education community. Through its work, COATS brings the education community together to work toward providing the best possible education for Alberta students.

Membership of Council

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards is comprised of representatives from the provincial education organizations, including practicing teachers. The Chair of COATS is appointed from the membership by the Minister of Learning. The Registrar of Alberta Learning serves the Council in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity and as Executive Secretary.

COUNCIL MEMBERS 1998-1999 and 1999-2000

Teacher Representatives

Mr. Geoff Hunter
Youngstown School ~
Prairie Land Regional
Division

Ms. Usha Procinsky
Westbrook Elementary
School ~ Edmonton
School District

Ms. Christine Zarski
Gerard Redmond
Community Catholic
School ~ Living Waters
Catholic Regional Division

Dr. Claude Oppenheim
Calgary Jewish Academy ~
Association of
Independent Schools and
Colleges of Alberta

Dr. Joanne Neal
Ottewell School ~
Edmonton School District

COUNCIL MEMBERS 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 continued

Partner Representatives

Dr. Susan Lynch,
*Alberta Learning
(formerly Alberta Education)

Mr. Ron Zapisocki
Alberta School Boards Association

Mr. David Lynn *(Chair)*
College of Alberta School Superintendents

Dr. Laurie Walker
Faculties of Education
(University of Lethbridge)

Ms. Debbie Cavaliere
Public Member

Mr. Luigi Gatti
Alberta Teachers' Association

Mrs. Margaret Hunziker
Past Council Chair

**In May of 1999 key elements of two departments, Alberta Education and Advanced Education and Career Development were combined to form a new Department, Alberta Learning.*

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND LEGAL COUNSEL 1998-1999 and 1999-2000

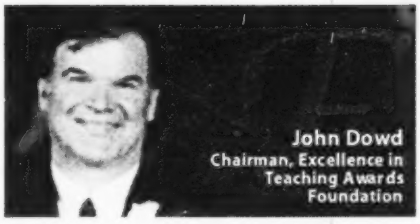
Administrative Support	Representing
Mr. Fred Burghardt Director	*Professional Development and Certification *(formerly Teacher Certification and Development Branch)*
Ms. Pamela Wolfe Assistant Director	*Professional Development and Certification *(formerly Teacher Certification and Development Branch)*
Ms. Karen Belanger Administrative Support	*Professional Development and Certification *(formerly Teacher Certification and Development Branch)*

Legal Counsel	Representing
Mr. Jerry McKenna	Alberta Justice

**As of April 1, 2000, as part of the restructuring of Alberta Learning, Professional Development and Certification Branch assumed new duties and responsibilities in addition to those of the former Teacher Certification and Development Branch.*

Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself.

John Dewey



John Dowd
Chairman, Excellence in Teaching Awards Foundation

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Teaching Awards Program recognizes teachers for their creativity, innovation and effectiveness. Yearly, thousands of Albertans have joined to celebrate teaching excellence in award ceremonies across the province.

The Program is supported by Alberta Learning as well as the following business and education partners: The Document Company, XEROX, Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, Fraser Milner Casgrain (formerly Fraser Milner), Syncrude, TELUS, and The Edmonton Journal. The Alberta Chambers of Commerce, the Calgary Herald and the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan sponsor the Program.

Currie & Gerrard Communications Ltd. organize and co-ordinate the nomination and selection processes as well as the annual Gala event and related activities.

The TELUS Innovative Use of Technology Award has been part of the Excellence Awards Program since 1997-1998. This Award recognizes teachers' exemplary use of electronic technology in meeting the Excellence in Teaching Awards selection criteria.

"She is my ideal female role model, and has made me change the way I think about math"

(quoted by a student)

In both 1999 and 2000, all eligible nominees received a Certificate of Nomination in recognition of their nomination. A nine-member Selection Committee reviewed all nominations. Comprised of representatives of the provincial education organizations, the Selection Committee included two COATS representatives one of whom served as Chair and the other as Chair designate. The Committee selected one hundred and twenty five nominees as Excellence in Teaching Award Finalists and three TELUS Innovative Use of Technology Award Finalists. Finalists' Certificates were provided to employing school boards that conducted local presentation ceremonies. From among the Finalists, 20 teachers were named to receive a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award and one was named as the provincial TELUS Award Recipient.

Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients excel in attending to individual student needs and involving parents in student learning.

Criteria for Selection

The Honourable Gary Mar, Minister of Education, and Mr. John Dowd, Chair of the Excellence in Teaching Awards Foundation, presented provincial Award Recipients with framed certificates and souvenir pins at the May 8, 1999 provincial Gala ceremony held in Calgary.

The 2000 Awards Ceremony was held in Edmonton on May 6, 2000 and the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning and Mr. John Dowd presented provincial Award Recipients with framed certificates and souvenir pins.

Sponsor representatives presented Recipients with a cash award for their school.

Excellence in Teaching Award

Recipients excel in motivating students to exceed their own expectations.

Criteria for Selection

Hon. Gary Mar

Recipients of the 1998-1999
Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards

Back row, l to r: Ian Hindmarsh; JoAnne Thaxter; Robert Hicks; Charlene Ungstrad; Patricia Christensen; Hank Reinbold; Peter Langstraat; Susan Stevenson; Ruth Roedler; Greg Wheeler; Linda Beaudet; Maureen Gerlitz; Scott Royce

Front row, l to r: Wendy Richards; Gillian Bas; Lorraine Taylor; Holly Bains; John Dowd; Honourable Gary Mar; Donna Griffin; Doreen Czajkowsky; Shaun Hains; Susan McLaren

BARRHEAD
Susan Patricia McLaren
BARRHEAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALGARY
Maureen Gerlitz
CENTRAL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
Robert Clayton Hicks
LORD BEAVERBROOK HIGH SCHOOL
Ian Hindmarsh
ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

CARSTAIRS
Patricia Anne Christensen
HUGH SUTHERLAND SCHOOL

CLIVE
Holly Baines
CLIVE SCHOOL

DIDSBURY
B. Ruth Roedler
MIDWAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

EDMONTON
Doreen Evelyn Czajkowsky
MCNALLY SCHOOL
Shaun Hains
W.P. WAGNER SCHOOL
Wendy Richards
OLIVER SCHOOL
Susan Stevenson
MCNALLY SCHOOL

GRANDE PRAIRIE
Charlene Ungstad
PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Linda Beaudet – TELUS Recipient
ECOLE ST. GERARD SCHOOL

LETHBRIDGE
Lorraine R. M. Taylor
GILBERT PATERSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Joanne Marie Thaxter
LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

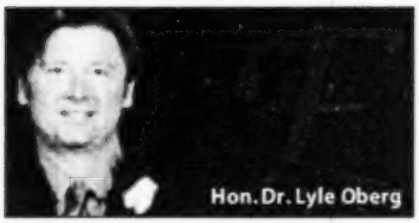
OKOTOKS
Scott Royce
HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY

RED DEER
Pieter Langstraat
FAIRVIEW SCHOOL
Greg Wheeler
HUNTING HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

SHERWOOD PARK
Donna Griffin
GLEN ALLAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. ALBERT:
Hank Reinbold
ST. ALBERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

TABER:
Gillian Vas
PRAIRIEHOME COLONY SCHOOL


Hon. Dr. Lyle Oberg

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards.

Anatole France

Recipients of the 1999-2000
Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards

Back row, l to r: Maureen Hollar, Marguerite Boisjolie, Richard Tapp, Roberta Francescut, David Sherbinin, Mark Samuel, Robert Charchun, James Ferguson, Jack Cohen, Mary Tesan, Kathy Dolby

Front row, l to r: Marlene Lay, Russell Konschuh, Janice Szynkowski, Jimmy Rawji, John Dowd, Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Roberta Baril, Helen Hoey, Valerie Dennehy, Lea Trenholm, Donna Morgan, (William Suckling- absent from photo)

BEISEKER
Helen Hoey
BEISEKER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CALGARY
Marguerite Boisjolie
A.E. CROSS SCHOOL
Lea Trenholm
ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL
Jack A. Cohen
JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER HIGH SCHOOL
William A. Suckling
JACK JAMES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Richard S. Tapp
TOM BAINES SCHOOL

CLARESHOLM
Robert Charchun
WILLOW CREEK COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

DEVON
Maureen Lea Hollar
JOHN MALAND HIGH SCHOOL

EDMONTON
Kathy Dolby
ALBERTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
Robert Baril
EDITH ROGERS SCHOOL

FOREMOST
Donna Marlaine Morgan
FOREMOST SCHOOL

MANYBERRIES
Mary Elizabeth Tesan
MANYBERRIES SCHOOL

MEDICINE HAT
Russell Steven Konschuh
MEDICINE HAT HIGH SCHOOL
Marlene Louise Lay
VINCENT MASSEY SCHOOL

PEACE RIVER
David Sherbinin
GLENMARY SCHOOL

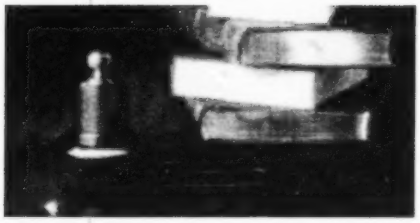
PONOKA
Janice Colleen Szynkowski
MECCA GLEN SCHOOL
Sadrudin (Jimmy) Rawji
RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SADDLE LAKE:
Valerie Dennehy
ONCHAMINAHOS SCHOOL

ST. ALBERT
Mark Samuel
ST. ALBERT STOREFRONT SCHOOL

TOFIELD
Roberta D. Francescut
TOFIELD SCHOOL

WHITECOURT
James Whitton Ferguson
PERCY BAXTER SCHOOL



Certification Appeal Committee

A teacher member of the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards sits on the Certification Appeal Committee (CAC). The CAC hears appeals from individuals who have been denied interim or permanent certification by the Registrar for Alberta Learning. The Committee also hears appeals of the Registrar's decisions to recommend to the Minister suspension or cancellation of individual teachers' certification.

1998-1999

In 1998/1999, eight (8) appeals were heard. Two appeals concerned denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions. The Committee allowed the appeals of both individuals and the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification.

Six (6) appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification to applicants owing to their failure to present evidence of possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decisions were upheld in three (3) cases and the other three (3) cases were deferred pending further information.

1999-2000

In 1999-2000, eleven appeals were scheduled. Six appeals concerned denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions. The Committee allowed the appeals of these individuals and the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification.

Five (5) appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification to applicants owing to their failure to present evidence of possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decisions were upheld in two (2) cases and the other three (3) cases were deferred.

Teachers are inextricably linked to the integrity of the school system. ...The conduct of a teacher bears directly upon the community's perception of the ability of the teacher to fulfil such a position of trust and influence, and upon the community's confidence in the public school system as a whole.

Canadian Supreme Court decision

Practice Review of Teachers Regulation

"...the best educational interests of the student are the paramount considerations in the exercise of any authority under this Act ...."

Alberta School Act

In 1998, COATS played a major role in re-writing the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation based on the 1997 Teaching Quality Standard Ministerial Order, as well as specific concerns about the inefficiencies in administering the regulatory process, and to ensure compliance with Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP).

The Regulation now links the Teaching Quality Standard Ministerial Order (1997) and the knowledge, skills and attributes (KSAs) teachers are expected to meet in their teaching practices. The Regulation, therefore, provides a vehicle whereby any person may make a complaint about a teacher whose practices are alleged not to be in keeping with the expected Standard and the KSAs needed to meet the Standard.

1998-1999

In the course of the 1998/99 school year, the Registrar received 40 inquiries from individuals concerned about teachers' alleged unskilled or incompetent practices. This compares to 28 the previous year.

Of the 40 calls, 22 were from parents and 18 were from individuals who wished not to identify themselves.

The majority of callers were counselled to use problem-solving strategies at the local level to address concerns. If callers provided their names and addresses, the Registrar forwarded to each of them the *Information Guide About How To Make A Complaint*, as well as a copy of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation. Several callers were also referred to the Alberta Teachers' Association.

The Registrar received a letter requesting information about a retired teacher. The complainant was advised that under Section 6(4)(a) of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation a complaint is not permitted about the teaching of a teacher later than 2 years after the teacher ceases to engage in the practice of teaching.

The investigation further to a complaint about a teacher's unskilled practice was suspended when the Registrar received information the teacher was on extended medical leave owing to illness and that the teacher also had appealed to the Board of Reference.

Practice Review of Teachers Regulation continued

1999-2000

In the course of the 1999-2000 school year, the Registrar received 39 telephone inquiries from individuals concerned about teachers' alleged unskilled or incompetent practices. This compares to 40 the previous year. Of the 39 calls, 29 were from parents and 10 were from individuals who wished not to identify themselves.

The majority of callers were counseled to use problem-solving strategies at the local level to resolve concerns. If callers provided their names and addresses, the Registrar forwarded to each of them the *Information Guide About How To Make A Complaint*, as well as a copy of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation.

A two day Practice Review Panel Hearing was held in January, 2000 further to a complaint concerning a teacher's alleged failure to provide appropriate, advertised, as well as, allegedly promised support and instruction to a special needs student. The Panel found that the teacher's practices were not unskilled or incompetent. However, evidence was heard at the hearing that the school no longer advertises its ability to attend to as broad a spectrum of special needs students as it did at the time of the complaint.

The Registrar received the investigators' reports further to two complaints that teachers at a charter school allegedly were guilty of unprofessional conduct owing to their overly physically and verbally aggressive mode of classroom management. On the basis of information in the reports, the Registrar directed no further action to be taken.

As of June 30, 2000, one investigation was underway, three Practice Review panels were scheduled for fall hearings and two investigations were suspended pending the completion of Boards of Reference Appeals.

COATS Accomplishments

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

Malcolm Forbes

1998-1999

- The Council developed a content outline for a guide that Alberta school principals could use to assist them in their conduct of ongoing supervision of the quality of teaching in their schools and for use in their conduct of teacher evaluations.
- Council began to develop a new guide for parents and others to provide them with needed information about making a complaint under the revised Practice Review of Teachers Regulation.
- Work began on principles to guide teachers supported by Teaching Assistants: The proposed guide's purpose will be to clarify responsibilities and the tasks that only a certificated teacher may carry out, as well as the conditions under which a teacher may legitimately delegate tasks and activities to a teaching assistant.
- Work continued on the establishment of a Council on Alberta Teaching Standards web site. The proposed Council site, at minimum, will link to the Teaching Quality Standard Ministerial Order, the Certification of Teachers Regulation, and the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation. It also will include information for applicants for teacher certification as well as information to assist individuals concerned about the teaching of a teacher or the conduct of a teacher.
- The Council developed strategies that education and community leaders could use to educate the public about the positive contribution teachers make to students' learning and physical as well as psychological development. These strategies may be used by education partner organization communication staffs to develop detailed action plans to enhance the public's understanding of the key role of teachers in our society.
- As required by the Memoranda of Agreement between the Minister and the provincial teacher preparation institutions, a working group was formed to gather information about the degree to which teacher preparation programs as well as professional development opportunities and experiences during the first two years of their teaching provide beginning teachers with the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for permanent professional certification. Council will review the work of this group in the coming year.

1999 - 2000

- Work continued on the development of a guide that Alberta school principals can use to assist them in their conduct of ongoing supervision of the quality of teaching in their schools and for use in their conduct of teacher

COATS Accomplishments continued

evaluations. The draft guide was produced in conjunction with College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and approved at various government levels. As of August 31, 2000 the draft was undergoing editing prior to being submitted for final legal review.

- The basic content of a COATS web-site was created in June of 2000. The site links to various government documents such as the Teaching Quality Standards Ministerial Order, the Teachers Growth Plan Brochure, Certification Regulation, Practice Review of Teachers Regulation, Information and Guidelines for Persons Making a Complaint. Also available on this web-site is the nomination package for the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program. The home page will have a hot link to the latest news release pertaining to activities of the Council as well as a Great Teacher Story which will be periodically updated.

  Also available on the site will be annual reports and lists of current and past Recipients in the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

- The Council has continued to work on enhancing the status of teachers and teaching. A letter thanking all teachers for their valuable contributions to our education system and to the young people of Alberta was sent by the Chair of COATS to all schools in Alberta for World Teacher Day on October 5, 1999. In conjunction with Alberta Learning Communications, an MLA tool kit was designed to provide them with basic facts and statistics about teachers.

- The Council continues to review and stream-line the selection process for the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

- The Working Group formed to gather information on teacher preparation programs in Alberta met on several occasions. A working group representing partner organizations drafted a survey aimed at graduates of teacher preparation programs and piloted it in April and May of 2000. On the basis of the pilot as of August 31, 2000 the working group revised the draft to be used in 2001.

- The Alberta Learning handout entitled "Information and Guidelines for Persons Considering Making a Complaint under the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation" was issued. This document also was incorporated into the soon to be launched COATS web-site.

- COATS established a set of principles for the development of a guide for teachers supported in the classroom by teaching assistants. This document will be forwarded to the Minister for his consideration.

Further information about any activities of the
Council on Alberta Teaching Standards
may be obtained by contacting:

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